GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:605
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000
POPULATION OF LEOPARDS
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Leopards in the country;

(b) whether at least 1000 Leopards have been killed during the last one year ;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect Leopards in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI)

(a) As reported by the State Governments the number of Leopards in 1997 was approximately 6000.

(b) Yes ,Sir.

(c) Death of approximately one thousand leopards can be estimated from the recent seizures in Gaziabad and Khaga. Details of seizures are in Annexure I The measures taken for protection of Leopards in the Country is enclosed in Annexure II.

ANNEXURE I IN RESPECT OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTIONS NUMBER 605 FOR 28-2-2000 REGARDING POPULATION OF LEOPARDS

SEIZURE AT SAHIBABAD (UTTAR PRADESH)

SNo.	Seizure Date	Seized State	Taken Distt.	Site No.	Material	Quantity	Action	Present Status	Remarks
1	19/12/99	U.P border	Sahibabad Sahibabad and sent to judicial custody		Leopard skin Tiger Skin Fox Skin	50 3 5	3 persons arrested and sent to judicial custody in the court of WL(P) Act)	case is pending	Violation

SEIZURE AT KHAGA (FATEHPUR DISTT) (UTTAR PRADESH)

SNo.	Seizure Date	Seized State	Taken Distt.	Site No.	Material	Quantity	Action	Present Status	Remarks
1	12/01/2000	U.P	Fatehpur	Khaga	Tiger Skin Leopard	4 70	6 persons arrested and sent to judicial custody in the court of WL(P) Act)	case is pending	Violation

Skin
Black 221
Buck
Skin
Tiger 137
Nail
Leopard 18000
Nail
Leopard 1
Penis
Leopard 2
Canine

ANNEXURE II IN RESPECT OF PART (D) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 605 FOR 28-2-2000 REGARDING POPULATION OF LEOPARDS.

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organizations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training Programs and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, C B I and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure Including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.

5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.

6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organizations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.

9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.

12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:-

(i). A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
(ii) An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
(iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.

3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for

conservation of tiger both at national and international level.